

286      EMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND  
REFORMER

(" Bel Ami"), by Guy de Maupassant. At the same time "W. M. Thomson, discharged when summoned for "Tho Decameron/" was prosecuted for selling a translation of " The Heptameron," as well as other works; and other hook-sellers were likewise proceeded against in connection with some of the American versions of Zola's novels. The cases were heard by Mr. Vaughan, a testy old magistrate who long presided at Bow Street, and who committed Vizotelly for trial with respect to the following works: Zola's "Abbe\* Mouret's Transgression/" "The Rush for the Spoil/" "Fat and Thin," «His Excellency E. Rougon/" " How Jolly Lifo is"; Bourget's "Love Crime" and Maupassant's "Ladies' Man." A few objections had been raised in the press apropos of the prosecution of " Madame Bovary," and with the gracious approval of the great Stead of the "Maiden Tribute," the summons respecting that work was eventually adjourned *sine die*.<sup>1</sup>

When Vizetelly returned to his office from Bow Street on the day of his committal, he took the only course consistent with integrity. He assigned everything he possessed for the benefit of his creditors, in order that his business might be liquidated. It was impossible to carry it on any longer. The wreckers had resolved to ruin him, and

had succeeded  
to their hearts' desire. Friends came and  
expressed their  
sympathy — among others, Sir Henry Irving,  
the late Sir  
John Gilbert, and Mr. Birkenhead Foster—but there  
was virtu-  
ally no opportunity for any public protest.  
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<sup>1</sup> The same course was taken with the summonses for "  
L'Assommoir,"  
"Germinal," and "The Fortune of the Kougons." And  
that against  
Thomson with regard to "The Heptameron" was withdrawn,  
because the  
prosecution had mislaid its copy of the work.